

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, September 10, 2012**

Council President Francis G. Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Pastor Laddie Benton, of the Washington Presbyterian Church.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Acosta
Councilor Corcoran, District 1
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2
Councilor Sterner, District 3
Councilor Marmarou, District 4
Councilor Waltman, District 6
Managing Director C. Snyder
Mayor V. Spencer
City Auditor D. Cituk
City Solicitor C. Younger
City Clerk L. Kelleher

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

City Council issued the following:

- Council Commendation recognizing the 225th Anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States, accepted by Elizabeth Dechant, Regent of the Berks County Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution; Robert Hillegas, President of the Gov. Hiester Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution; and Bruce Vaughan, Chaplain of the Conrad Weiser Society, Children of the American Revolution
- Council Commendation recognizing the 55th Anniversary of Three Minute Car Wash, accepted by Lyle Greiss, Vice President
- Council Commendation recognizing the 20th Anniversary of the Blacktop Basketball League
- Council Commendation recognizing the Downtown Farmers Market.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta announced that two (2) citizens were registered to address Council on non-agenda matters. He inquired if any Councilor objected to suspending the rule requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the Council meeting. As no one objected, the rule to require non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting was suspended. Council President Acosta reminded the citizens registered to speak about the remaining public speaking rules.

Tracy Salomond, of Wunder St, was not present.

David Leibensberger, of South 10th St, stated that he has lived in Reading for many years but has grown tired of dealing with crime and Quality of Life issues, mostly caused by rental properties in his neighborhood. He stated that the City needs to provide support to the Reading Police Force, although he noted the challenges of Reading's ability to hire the number of officers it really needs. He suggested that if the ordinances were better enforced, behavior would change and improve. He stated that until that occurs citizens like himself will be pushed from the City.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting and the minutes for the August 27th Regular Meeting of Council. He noted that there is no legislation on the Consent Agenda this evening.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the minutes from the August 27th Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda for this meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mayor Spencer read the report distributed to Council earlier in the day. He highlighted the report as follows:

- Update on the West Nile Virus in Reading
- Expressing congratulations to the Reading Phillies
- Describing his attendance at the Democratic Convention

Mayor Spencer stated that the 2nd phase of the Oak Lane Clean-up by Reading Beautification occurred over the past weekend. He also described the RHS Hall of Fame event and

reminded all of the 9/11 Ceremony planned for City Park tomorrow at 9:55 am.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

City Auditor Cituk read the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following:

- Description of the District 2 Town Meeting on September 5th
- Update on the completion of the 2011 external audit
- Description of the payroll system changes
- Update on the Accounts Payable process
- Update on the progress of the Audit Committee

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

A. Bill No. 88-2012 - amending the 2012 City of Reading general fund budget by authorizing the transfer of pension savings produced by recalculation of MMO to spending contingency (Controller) *Introduced at the August 27 regular meeting*

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to enact Bill No. 88-2012.

Bill No. 88-2012 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,
President -6
Nays: None -0

B. Bill No. 89-2012 - establishing a three-way stop intersection at North 12th and Walnut Streets in the City of Reading, Pennsylvania (Law) *Introduced at the August 27 regular meeting*

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to enact Bill No. 89-2012.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the next three pieces of legislation all refer changes that were implemented with the plans for Citadel, which were approved by the Planning Commission.

Bill No. 89-2012 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,
President -6
Nays: None -0

C. Bill No. 90-2012 - establishing two-way traffic on North 12th Street between Walnut and Elm Streets in the City of Reading, Pennsylvania (**Law**) *Introduced at the August 27 regular meeting*

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 90-2012.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the signs referenced in Bill 90 and 91 are already in place. The Managing Director stated that she has set policy requiring Council approval of new traffic signs and signals before the Planning Commission approves the plans.

Bill No. 90-2012 was enacted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,
President -6**

Nays: None -0

D. Bill No. 91-2012 - establishing two-way traffic on Walnut Street between North 12th and Birch Streets in the City of Reading, Pennsylvania (**Law**) *Introduced at the August 27 regular meeting*

Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to enact Bill No. 91-2012.

Bill No. 91-2012 was enacted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,
President -6**

Nays: None -0

E. Bill No. 92-2012 - amending Chapter 11, Housing, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading, by redefining the Failure to Appear for Inspection Language for Property Maintenance Inspections (**Law**) *Introduced at the August 27 regular meeting*

Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to enact Bill No. 92-2012.

Bill No. 92-2012 was enacted by the following vote:

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,
President -6**

Nays: None -0

F. Bill No. 93-2012 - amending the City of Reading's organizational chart to reflect the current organizational structure (**Law**) *Introduced at the August 27 regular meeting*

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to enact Bill No. 93-2012.

Bill No. 93-2012 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,
President -6
Nays: None -0

G. Bill No. 94-2012 – amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Chapter 15 Parking Meters Section 15-502 Parking Meter Zones, Section 15-503 Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays exempted, 15-504 Time of Parking Limited by Zone; Hours of Operation (**Parking Authority/Council Staff**) *Introduced at the August 27 regular meeting*

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 94-2012.

Bill No. 94-2012 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,
President -6
Nays: None -0

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

Council President Acosta read the following ordinances into the record:

A. Ordinance – amending the Codified Ordinances Chapter 15, Part 8 Impoundment and Booting of Vehicles authorizing the immediate removal of vehicles that have been booted after receiving a minimum of five unsettled parking tickets (**Parking Authority/Council Staff**)

B. Ordinance - authorizing the Mayor to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Reading Berks Association of Realtors and the City of Reading for the creation of the CORE Program within Reading (**Law**)

C. Ordinance – transferring funds from contingency account as follows: \$70,000 to the Reading Redevelopment Authority for blighted properties entering the CORE process and \$5,000 for Reading Beautification supporting the city-wide clean-ups. (**Bus Anal**) *To be distributed on Monday*

RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolutions 109-2012 – appointing Melissa Eggert to the Board of Ethics (Nom & Appts)

B. Resolutions 110-2012– appointing Pier Ignozzi-Shaffer to the Environmental Advisory Council (Nom & Appts)

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to adopt Resolutions 109 and 110-2012.

Councilor Marmarou and Corcoran noted the skill of these two residents who have volunteered to serve on these City Boards. They encouraged others to apply.

Resolutions 109 and 110-2012 were adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,

President -6

Nays: None -0

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Corcoran agreed with Mr. Leibensberger regarding the need for the City and City residents to support the Reading police and for the police to enforce the City's ordinances. He congratulated Black Top on their anniversary and noted the important service they provide to City youth and young adults.

Councilor Sterner congratulated those receiving commendations this evening and thanked those who provided public comment earlier this evening. He noted the next Outlet Neighborhood Meeting at the 10th and Windsor Church.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the importance of democracy and communication. She stated that the September 5th District 2 Town Meeting was very well attended. She stated that in addition to herself, the Managing Director, Public Works Director, Council President Acosta and UGI representatives attended the meeting. She also noted the successful event held last Thursday by the Pagoda Foundation.

Councilor Marmarou noted the success of the Oak Lane Clean Up. He thanked Ms. Kelleher for her role in making this occur.

Councilor Corcoran noted the need for neighbors to keep a watchful eye out on the entire neighborhood. He stated that a watchful neighbor in his own neighborhood prevented a car break-in. He stated that the police responded to the call quickly.

Council President Acosta described the success of the initial RHS Hall of Fame event. He also described the College Heights Community Council meeting he attended on Sunday evening.

Council President Acosta stated that Mr. Gilyard from the Central PA African American Museum (CPAAM) presented each Councilor with a booklet entitled "To Tell the Story of Black Culture in Reading." He invited Mr. Gilyard to comment. Mr. Gilyard stated that the kickoff for the fundraising to support the Museum will occur soon.

Council President Acosta announced the upcoming meeting schedule.

Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk